Macao, China, April 2d 1844-

To
The Committee on Foreign Missions of the Society of Inquiry- Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J.

Dear Brethren,

A few days previous to my sailing from the United States, I received a letter from my good friend and brother Dr. Wm. A. Westcott, then your corresponding Secretary, requesting that I would correspond with your society- I regret that at the time I received the letter, I was so much occupied with preparations for sailing, that I had no leisure to answer your letter- Nothing however would give me greater pleasure than to be able to communicate to your Committee any thing which might increase the interest of your members in the great work of missions. At present however I have little of interest to write as I have not yet entered upon my proper station and employment. I am at present residing at Macao in company with Rev. W. M. Lowrie, and Mr. and Mrs. Cole of our board, and Mr. S. W. Williams of the A. B. C. F. M.; intending as soon as the monsoon, or trade wind, changes, to leave for Ningpo in order to establish as soon as possible a missionary hospital in that place- I shall probably be alone as far as missionary society is concerned, until the return of Dr. Macgowan of the American Baptist Board, who has gone to Calcutta to be married He will probably return to Ningpo in midsummer, bringing with him Mrs. M., and there is an English lady, by name, Miss Aldersea at present at Tinghae on the island of Chusan, who intends taking up her residence with Dr. & Mrs. M. on their return to Ningpo. The only foreigners in Ningpo at present, are Mr. Thom, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, and two gentlemen associated with him. Ningpo is a very ancient city, being mentioned in the writings of Confucius 2400 years ago. It is in the centre of the green tea country, and will therefore, in all probability, be a place of great resort for American ships, as our countrymen consum more green tea than any other nation. As very little has bee known of Ningpo hitherto, (it being one of the 5 ports thrown op by the late treaty,) I hope after I get there to be able to giv you some information that will prove interesting. Mr. Milne an extract from whose journal you may have read in the Chronicle for Dec. 1844, is now absent from N. on a visit to England, which I regret very much, as it would be exceeding pleasant to have at least one Christian brother to hold intercour with, and Mr. Milne's long residence in China, and his acquaintance with the language and with some of the principal inhabitants, would have been of great service to me. With the disposit of our present force in China you are doubtless acquainted. There are four of us (including Mrs. Cole) at Macao, and Dr. & Mrs. Hepburn are at Amoy. At Canton, we have no station, and Dr. Parker of the A. B. C. F. M. will probably be absent during the summer in the emplo of the American Legation. He was very anxious that I should take his hospital at Canton, in order to keep it from being closed, and ha urged strongly the importance of our having a station at Canton. It is true Canton is an important place, but I prefer going to the north whe we have not to contend with prejudices strengthened by an intercour for nearly 2 centuries, with foreigners, who, their sole object being gain, have given more occasion for the epithet "Foreign Devil," that is bestowed upon them, than the inhabitants of Europe and America are aware. The influence of medical science upon the Chinese in a religious poin of view, has been much talked of at home, and I fear greatly overrated. It is true crowds come to be cured, and profess great gratitude for the benefits they receive, but they are so short a time under our influence, that little can be expected directly from this means. I regret to find that many of the missionary hospitals have been conducted with too much reference to mere medical efforts and too little effort has been made to render them useful to the souls as well as the bodies of men. This fault, however, I rejoice to think is being amended. We have very many books printed in the Chinese language, but many of them are unintelligible to the Chinese owing to their not being correct as to the idiom. Indeed Morrison's translation of the Bible is almost useless, as I have not yet seen a Chinese who could comprehend the whole of any one chapter in it. A new translation of the New Testament has been lately printed, by Messrs. Bridgman, Gutzlaff, and J. R. Morrison. It is however comparatively easy to acquire the colloquial dialect which differs considerably from the written. The colloquial of one ~~dialect~~ district is however unintelligible to a native of a different district, differing fully as much from it as English does from German, while the written language, is not much varied throughout the Empire. It is much easier to learn to speak and preach in the colloquial, than to learn the written language so as to write it correctly, and I rejoice that more is done now in the way of preaching, than used to be the case, when most of the labor was spent upon translations into Chinese, which have scarcely repaid the toil bestowed upon them. ~~[illegible]~~ my meaning will be understood better, if you will remember that native Chinese spend 7 years in learning to read and write their own language. There are several adult converts now in China, but the Chinese are such a nation of liars, that lamentable instances of deception and apostasy have been met with, where it has been seen that "the love of money" was the motive for the profession of Christianity and not "the love of Christ." Although from observing their conduct while engaged in their devotions you would suppose them very lukewarm in their attachment to idolatry, the case is far otherwise - they cling to it with the greatest pertinacity, and to me it appears that our chief and almost only hope is ~~from the~~ in training up their young men. A knowledge of English is so valuable that Chinese parents are very willing to send their sons to be educated in the English language. ~~and~~ The Morrison Education society (not a missionary es-

tablishment,) under the superintendence of Rev. S. R. Brown of Amer
has 30 boys in training, who are instructed in the common branches
of an English education, as well as in the Chinese language & literatur
They all attend family prayers (in English) morning and evening
and about half the boys read in turn with the rest of the family. All
who have been under instruction for any length of time have abandone
idolatry. Some have been taken from the school and cruelly persecuted by
their parents, but have steadily refused to join in idolatrous rites, and have foun
their way back to the school. One of them (about 18 yrs. old,) seems an
humble exemplary Christian, and my heart was very much warmed toward
him while staying at Mr. Browns in Hongkong last week. But I have fille
my sheet without any thing to interest you much. Remember us in your
prayers "that the word of God may have free course and be glorified with
us as it is with you". I will endeavor to let you hear from me upon
my being settled in Ningpo, and should be glad to hear from you
often. May grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and from
our Lord Jesus be with you all. Your brother in the kingdom
and patience of Christ) D B McCartee

This letter you will at once see was
written in haste, and will I trust make
all allowances. We expect a ship to sail
today or tomorrow for New York -

To
The Committee on Foreign Missions
Theological Seminary of the
Presbyterian Church.
Princeton
New Jersey -
United States of America

Care of Rev. D. Wells.
Mission Rooms
Corner of Centre and
Duane Streets
New York.

NEW-YORK

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Ans Oct. 12, /44